

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. The real danger is not that the stations are being forced to air the program, but rather, that this is a clear case of electioneering - using the documentary to avoid providing equal time. Editorializing should be clearly acknowledged as such.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest, not to use those airwaves to further their own agenda during a Presidential election. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. It is only through the presentation of both sides of an election that the democratic process can flourish.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.